



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The First, Second,
And Third Tuesday of each month

REGULAR MEETING

County Courthouse
Bridgeport, California 93517

September 18, 2007

9:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Hazard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Stacey Powells, Mammoth Times

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Reid reported on the following issues and activities:

1. On the 12th attended the Mono Basin RPAC to give a Supervisors' Report; Reid talked about the things the County has done for the Basin. They asked about the community center landscaping and parking lot. Evan Nikirk will follow up.
2. Visited Conway Ranch on the 13th; was impressed with the work being done there.
3. Met with Dennis Lampson and Walt Aaron (summer resident) about Lahontan and their inability to complete the water quality study and provide permits. Aaron was asking for help to move this along.
4. The public who attended today's meeting to talk about the Assessor's Office shows a commitment to their communities; Reid was impressed with their presentations.

Supervisor Hunt reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Last Thursday the Rotary Club of Mammoth celebrated a heroes recognition luncheon and 9/11 commemoration; the County was well represented. Citation awards were given to many people in the County, and they honored several groups including the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department, Police Department, Ski Patrol, Sheriff's Office, Mono County Search and Rescue, and Mono Paramedics. It was a well received event.
2. Friday attended the ESTA meeting; reviewed the new business plan, approved certain contracts for Inyo employees, and approved a new office space. There was talk about the relationship with LTC; there needs to be a meeting to discuss the relationship between LTC and ESTA. Red's Meadows transit program gave a presentation; they have an interest in ESTA. The next meeting will be October 5th.

3. The Town-County Liaison meeting has been cancelled; the next meeting will be October 18th.
4. On Saturday the Mammoth Lakes Housing Board of Directors met to discuss creating housing mitigation tools for new development in Mammoth Lakes. They discussed work-force housing needs and current code. They also talked about mitigation alternatives and discussed an alternative to the Starwood proposal.

Supervisor Bauer reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Supervisor Bauer was absent.

Supervisor Farnetti reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Thanked Evan Nikirk for approving the Lake Mary cleanup that was held September 15th; Evan waived the gate fees. This event benefited the community of Mammoth Lakes.
2. John McCamman was named acting director for the Department of Fish and Game.
3. Thanked Human Resources Department for sending out bulletins about new hires.

Chairman Hazard reported on the following issues and activities:

1. On the 12th attended the Tri-Valley Groundwater District meeting; discussed the water well monitoring program. Water levels have dropped in wells throughout the area. The problem could be caused by a variety of circumstances: high-water crops, development, change in run-off; and past droughts. The County needs a good understanding of this situation as they make planning decisions.
2. On the 13th took a hearing test through the County's program.
3. Attended the heroes luncheon in Mammoth.
4. On the 14th attended the COG meeting; discussed a concern about the position recently taken concerning a safe travel corridor through the area. All partners of the MOU are asking San Bernardino Associated Governments to continue progress on the U.S. 395 corridor realignment environmental impact report.
5. Mammoth Lakes airport received a grant for a runway overlay; it is set up on a two-year timeline. Air service is expected by December 2008.
6. Held office hours in Chalfant; had inquiries about park improvements. Public Works will probably have a purchasing program for playground equipment for the various parks. There are developer funds and Hazard will meet with the community to do a plan.
7. On the 20th White Mountain Estates will be addressed at a Planning Commission hearing in Chalfant.
8. During office hours in Crowley, concerns were expressed about the community center and a number of maintenance issues.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (**David Wilbrecht**)
ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

David Wilbrecht, CAO, reported on the following issues and activities:

1. On Monday the Agenda Review Committee reviewed the new software. The system will be installed in the next week or two. Once the design side is complete, the committee will hold training and will continue to debug the system. The agenda will continue to look the same, but documents will be more accessible.

2. Plans for the Sierra Center Mall third floor will be included on the October 2nd agenda; the same design standards as the 2nd floor will be used.
3. Met with Catherine Hyatt from the Office of Education; discussed the need for a restroom near the library and discussed general security issues. Wilbrecht may make a request at the mid-year budget.
4. All quarterly performance reviews are completed.
5. Contacted AOC about the next set of documents.
6. IMAAA had interviews last week and found a good person to be a coordinator. Interviews should be held the week after next.
7. Attended the LTC and ESTA meetings last week.
8. Continuing to work with the Assessor's Office.
9. Senator Cox is visiting tonight in Chalfant.
10. The management meeting last Wednesday included a good round-table discussion.
11. The Church parcel is on-schedule for closing.
12. Attended the Eastern Sierra COG meeting.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular meeting of September 4, 2007, as amended.

M07-223

(Hunt/Farnetti, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

Supervisor Hunt, Board Member Report #3: The Rotary Club auction raised **\$30,000**.

Closed Session from 9:05 a.m. through 10:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

- 3) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION. Subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9. Name of Case: Larry Sherman v. County of Mono (Workers' Comp. Appeals Board Case No. SBR 0320337, SAC 0353126).
- 4) CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54956.8. Property: Conway Ranch. Agency Negotiators: Dan Lyster, Marshall Rudolph, and Dave Wilbrecht. Negotiating parties: Mono County and Inland Aquaculture Group. Under negotiation: price and terms of payment.

The Board had nothing to report from closed session.

Break from 10:00 a.m. through 10:05 a.m.; reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Marshall Rudolph reported on the following:

1. Regarding the proposed discussion with federal representatives on October 16th, the representatives have indicated they know about the recreation designation and don't think it would be a good use of their time to attend a meeting. They are having discussions at

the staff level to determine if there is a possible designation. After hearing Rudolph's report, the Board agreed to delay a meeting at this point and asked Stacey Simon to keep track of this issue.

2. The County Counsel's Office is researching the issue of uncollected taxes; it is not a straight-forward answer.

Brian Muir reported on the following:

1. Regarding uncollected taxes, someone thought the 1988 taxes were billed manually. If so, there would have been receipts. Two staff members have researched this; there are no receipts.

Sheriff Scholl reported on the following:

1. The Fossett search is scaling back; at this point his chances of survival are slim. Regarding a financial reimbursement for the search, this effort didn't affect the overtime budget and the costs to Mono County were minimal; many of the hours spent were on a volunteer basis.

CONSENT AGENDA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT/AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

- 5) 2007-08 Tax Rates
R07-65 ACTION: Approve **Resolution R07-65** approving the Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2007-08.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- 6) Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Appeals
Ord07-09 ACTION: Approve **Ordinance Ord 07-09** amending section 3.28.140 of the Mono County code, pertaining to transient occupancy tax appeals.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 7) US-395 Corridor Realignment
M07-224 ACTION: Authorize Chair's signature on attached letters to San Bernardino Associated Governments and its Mountain/Desert Committee urging continued progress on US-395 Corridor Realignment Environmental Impact Report
(Hunt/Farnetti, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

REGULAR AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL) All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board				
#	Received	Dated	From	Subject
8a)	9/05/07	8/29/07	Carolyn Webb	Thank you for the Certificate of Recognition
8b)	9/10/07	9/06/07	Alpine Fire Safe Council	Concern about the Possible Closure of the Tanker Base Operation at Minden Airport
<p>8b) Supervisor Farnetti asked the Sheriff if he had heard about closure of the tanker base; the Sheriff said he had not. Farnetti asked the Sheriff to research this issue.</p> <p>Chairman Hazard acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.</p>				

COUNTY COUNSEL

- 9)** Disability Retirement Determination (**Marshall Rudolph**)
R07-66 **ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R07-66** determining that Larry Sherman is eligible for industrial disability retirement. Provide any desired direction to staff.
(Hazard/Hunt, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said Sherman is a retired Sheriff's Sergeant, and applied to Cal PERS for disability retirement. The agency makes a determination, and the County has evidence to support the claim for disability in the course of performing duties. Rudolph recommended adoption of the resolution.

COUNTY COUNSEL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 10)** Proposed Ordinance Pertaining to the Tourism/Film Commission (**Marshall Rudolph**)
M07-225 **ACTION:** Introduce, read title, and waive further reading of proposed ordinance amending section 2.85.010 of the Mono County Code pertaining to the tourism/film commission. Direct Clerk to schedule said ordinance for adoption at the Board's next regular meeting. Provide any desired direction to staff.
(Farnetti/Hunt, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said this proposed ordinance is following through on previous Board direction. The ordinance specifies how the commission will be appointed; all seven members will be appointed by the Board and, as a goal, represent different communities in the County. No one has expressed resistance to this ordinance.

SHERIFF-CORONER

- 11) Sheriff's Revolving Fund (**Sheriff Richard C. Scholl**)
M07-226 **ACTION:** Approve request to increase the Sheriff's Revolving Fund from \$2,500 to \$5,000.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

Sheriff Scholl said the revolving fund is used for training purposes. Many times training comes up at the last minute and the cost exceeds the fund. For example, a week-long training may cost about \$3,000, so there is currently a problem being able to issue checks on the revolving fund. Brian Muir, Finance Director, supported this request.

PUBLIC WORKS

- 12) Grant Funding for Design Expenses at Lee Vining Airport (**Kelly Garcia**)
R07-67 **ACTION:** (1) Acknowledge receipt of Grant Offer for Project No. 3-06-0119-04
M07-227 from the Federal Aviation Administration in the amount of \$218,500 for design of reconstruction and electrical improvements at Lee Vining Airport. Approve, authorize, and ratify the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and accept the Grant Offer for design expenses. (2) Approve and authorize the Public Works Director to utilize up to \$6,037.50 from the Lee Vining Airport Special Aviation Account as match funding (2.625%) for the design of reconstruction and electrical improvements at Lee Vining Airport. (3) Approve and authorize the Chairman's signature on **Resolution R07-67**, "A Resolution of the Mono County Board of Supervisors authorizing the submittal of an application, acceptance of an allocation of funds and execution of a grant agreement with the California Department of Transportation, for an Airport Improvement Program (AIP) matching grant." (4) Authorize the Public Works Director (in consultation with County Counsel) to execute and administer an amendment to the 2005 Agreement with PBS&J in the amount of \$190,000. Said amendment would add a "task" to the Scope of Work of the Agreement consisting of design and bidding assistance services for reconstruction and electrical improvements at Lee Vining Airport. Fiscal impact: \$230,000 (\$218,500 FAA grant, \$5,462.50 State funds, \$6,037.50 County funds).
(Farnetti/Hunt, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

Kelly Garcia said the conceptual costs were estimated so the FAA grant would be \$218,500; the engineer's final proposal is \$190,000. This leaves enough money to fund short-falls with the Bryant Field apron rehabilitation. The County's portion will be \$6,037.50 from the Lee Vining special aviation fund; the State's portion is reflected in the resolution, around \$5,462.50. Once the FAA signs the documents, Garcia can apply for the State funds. This project will include reconstruction of the runway and improved lighting. Supervisor Hunt asked if use of the airport is increasing. Garcia said ultimately use may increase because of the gateway to Yosemite and YARTS transportation, but increased use will take some business strategy. The improved lighting will be similar to systems in Bridgeport (low to medium intensity); it should not be a significant increase so light pollution should not be a problem.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 13a)** Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation (**Penni Brown, Wild Iris**)
M07-228 **ACTION:** Approve proclamation designating the month of October 2007 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the State of California.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

Maria Lourdes Gonzalez (Clinical Director) and Bertha Jiminez (Crisis Education Counselor), asked the Supervisors to support a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This year Wild Iris plans to hold a self-esteem camp and a marathon; Gonzalez invited the Board Members to attend various functions. Supervisor Hunt read the proclamation.

- 13b)** Proposed Consulting Services Agreement (**Marshall Rudolph**)
M07-229 **ACTION:** Approve County entry into proposed agreement with Mammoth Lakes Housing, Inc. for consulting services and authorize the Board Chair to sign said agreement on behalf of the County.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 3-0; Bauer and Reid absent)

Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said this agreement follows up on a previous Board direction. It is a standard agreement to provide a one-time, up-front payment of \$20,000; Services will then be billed on a time and material basis.

Break from 11:00 a.m. through 11:05 a.m.; reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

- 13c)** Verbal Update and Status Report by the Assessor on his Office and Activities (**James Lovett**)
ACTION: (1) Receive a verbal report from the Assessor regarding the status of his office and activities. (2) Provide any desired direction to staff.

Chairman Hazard asked for an update on Mammoth Mountain. Lovett said Chris Hansen has not received any material, but has made numerous phone calls and was assured that they are getting the messages. Brett Price will be in Bridgeport for a meeting on Wednesday, and will send out a letter of demand; Lovett will provide a copy at the next meeting. A member of a newspaper had called Chris

Hansen to ask questions; Lovett reminded Hansen about the confidentiality clause in his contract and told him not to speak with newspapers. Supervisor Hunt said the estimated tax summary for the 2005 sale alone is \$6.423 million, which would be distributed amongst several agencies; Mono County is just one agency to benefit from collection of the taxes. Lovett said as soon as he gets a value from Mr. Hansen, this property will immediately be put on the roll and the escaped assessments applied.

Supervisor Farnetti asked what tools Lovett will use to make an accurate assessment. Lovett said if the demand letter receives no response, Hansen will provide his best assessment; he is an expert at valuing resorts.

Chairman Hazard asked about follow-up with County Counsel regarding Hansen's contract. Lovett said he met with Stacey Simon last week and she said the contract can be updated in the County Counsel's Office. Hazard said Lovett has made little progress with this consultant; Lovett said Hansen is an expert appraiser for ski resorts, and he will come in and do a physical inspection.

Chairman Hazard asked when the Assessor's Office began to prepare the tax rolls for 2007. Lovett said the rolls were turned over to the Auditor on June 30th in compliance with the Revenue and Taxation code; his office started the process on January 1st. Hazard asked Lovett what he did specifically to prepare for the 2007 tax roll. Lovett said he took part in assessment appeals, completed a presentation for the upcoming CNL hearing; assisted appraisers with problems; and appraised Cino's property. He ensures that staff is functioning and the work is being done. For example, the monthly report has shown a dramatic decrease in backlogs. Hazard asked if Lovett oversees the process. Lovett said he signs an affidavit to the Auditor/Controller verifying that his office has diligently appraised property according to the State law. Hazard asked Lovett if he inspects the roll for errors and omissions. Lovett said yes, the roll goes through a number of steps to be reviewed. Hazard said in 2006 staff members were off work during a critical period, and were off again in 2007. Lovett acknowledged they were off for one day, but Mr. Musil took responsibility for this and apologized for overlooking the circumstances.

Chairman Hazard asked Clay Neely, IT Director, if he was involved in the 2007 tax roll. Neely said yes, IT runs the process to produce the roll. During a conversation he asked the Assessor to have staff available to check the roll; it is mandatory to check each step of the way in order to catch problems as early as possible. It started the process on June 20th, and the roll was completed and turned over prior to June 30th. Hazard asked if Lovett was available during the process; Neely said he didn't recall seeing him.

Chairman Hazard asked Brian Muir, Finance Director, if he had any involvement with preparation of the tax roll. Muir said no, but he receives the roll in order to do the billing. The roll was delivered in a timely manner, and was accurate. Muir said he has problems with the process but this is not solely the fault of the Assessor. Muir has had meetings to improve the level of communications between the departments involved; he thinks the process can be improved and they are making progress. Muir said the Assessor attended the first meeting and staff attended the last two meetings. Lovett said as far as he knows, the one-week check and balance has been going on for years.

The following people from the community spoke about the need to get their share of the taxes in order to fund programs and services, many involving matters of public safety. They expressed concern that the issues surrounding Mammoth Mountain have taken so long to resolve. They asked for Board support to pursue this matter.

- Rob Clark, Town Manager of Mammoth Lakes
- Brent Harper, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department

- Richard Blanco, Mammoth Fire District Commissioner and citizen of Mammoth Lakes
- Gary Myers, Southern Mono Health Care District
- James Maxey, Mammoth Unified School District
- Gary Sisson, Mammoth Community Water District
- Bill Michael, Mono County Library

Tony Dublino, The Sheet, asked Lovett how far back the County can go to obtain taxes; what about the 1997 change? Lovett said they can go back four years on escaped assessments; they can't go back to 1997. Lovett emphasized that from 1997 until he took office, nothing was done with Mammoth Mountain; the consultant agreement was signed in 2006, after Lovett started. Dana Grenier, resident of Mammoth Lakes, asked Lovett when he took office; Lovett said June 2006.

Lovett said he recognizes the concerns expressed and realizes a lot of the entities need tax dollars. However, putting a value on the roll today will not mean they will get money right away because the owner can go through the assessment appeals process and ultimately take the matter to court. Two years is not unreasonable for a complex piece of property like Mammoth Mountain. Lovett said nothing had been done on this property until he became Assessor; he is also the person who made the decision that the 1997 transaction was a change of ownership.

Stacey Powells, Mammoth Times, said she called Baumwohl's office but didn't get a response; she asked Lovett if there is anyone else at the Mountain she can talk with. Lovett said Baumwohl is their legal counsel and wants to address all matters. He also said he will instruct Brett Price, the Assessor's attorney, to send a letter of demand; if there is no response, Lovett will ask Hansen to give his best assessment.

Supervisor Farnetti said in a year's time the Assessor has made no progress; he asked why Lovett had not involved legal counsel before now. Lovett said he has been in contact with Mr. Price about Mammoth Mountain; and he instructed Mr. Hansen to tell him if there are problems. A double-sided, 12-page questionnaire was sent to Mammoth Mountain; the Assessor's Office is still waiting for it, so a certified letter will be sent asking for return of the questionnaire.

An audience member asked why the Assessor has outside counsel. Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said the Assessor has outside counsel for assessment appeals because County Counsel represents the Assessment Appeals Board and there are due process concerns associated with County Counsel representing both the Board and the Assessor. Also, property tax matters are a specialty and the tax payers are well served by having this type of expertise. This has long been the practice of prior assessors. County Counsel does provide advice when requested, but outside counsel is used for the assessment appeals process.

Chairman Hazard asked for clarification about a comment made by Lovett regarding the acceptability of a two-year delay in the assessment process. Lovett said it is not unusual for a complex property to take two years to get a valid value. Once Hansen gets the necessary information, the assessment will be completed in 3-4 weeks. Lovett said he understands the concerns, he has been in this business for over 40 years and is aware of programs that rely on taxes, but he is working as fast as he can to get the assessment on the roll.

Chairman Hazard said Board meetings with Lovett over the past several weeks have revealed that he has been less than responsive to citizens of the County. Lovett is disengaged from preparing the tax roll, staff members have been gone during critical times during the year, Lovett has failed to monitor progress on Mammoth Mountain, he has failed to monitor the contract with the consultant, Lovett's work hours are minimal even though the salary is for full-time work, training for staff has accounted for only 10 hours over the past 6 months, Lovett failed to oversee the budget for 2007-08 and failed to catch errors and omissions; and his credibility has been questioned. Hazard said the Board does not believe Lovett is reporting accurate information, nor is he making improvements in supervision or changing his conduct. Hazard said the Board asked the Grand Jury to investigate this matter and citizens are aware of the situation and can make decisions. The Board will request Lovett to make a report during the third meeting each month, unless something requires an earlier report.

Dorothy Burdette, Mono County resident and registered voter, served Mr. Lovett with a notice that she intends to submit a recall petition.

Supervisor Farnetti requested staff to look into having an outside auditor come in and audit the Assessor's Office. This may assist the Grand Jury.

~ LUNCH ~

Break from 12:10 p.m. through 1:15 p.m.; reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Dick Noles, Advocates for Access to Public Lands (AAPL), presented a photo album of scenic places in the area to each Board Member. The album is from Dave McCoy, who wanted to express his thanks to the Board for working to protect access for recreational uses.

PUBLIC HEARING—DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

14) Fiscal Year 2007-2008 County Budget (**Brian Muir**)

R07-68 ACTION: (1) Approve **Resolution R07-68** adopting the final Mono County budget for fiscal year 2007-2008. (2) Approve the additional expense of \$5,000 for Veteran's Services, and add the Williamson Act income, leaving a contingency of \$1,398,184. (3) Approve minor revisions to the personnel allocation table.
(Hunt/Farnetti, 4-0; Bauer absent)

Brian Muir, Finance Director, said the proposed budget has been accessible to the public for review. He received one comment about affordable housing (letter on file in the Clerk's Office). Muir recommended the following changes:

- Veteran's Services intended to include another \$5,000 in their request.
- The Williamson Act passed so potential revenue needs to be included.
- The position allocation list has minor revisions.

Muir said with the additional \$5,000 appropriation and the Williamson Act revenue, the contingency will be \$1,398,184.

Chairman Hazard opened the public hearing:
No one spoke.

Board Members thanked staff and department heads for all their work; the budget process was very efficient.

ADJOURNED: 1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Hunt said he needed to leave for a conference in Napa so would be unable to attend the evening meeting; he sent his regrets to the Chalfant community and Senator Cox.

Reconvene Evening Meeting at the Chalfant Community Center

6:00 p.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Hazard

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator David Cox

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

15) Presentation by Senator Cox

ACTION: (1) Receive update by Senator Cox about State issues. (2) Senator Cox will take comments and answer questions. (3) Direct staff as appropriate.

Chairman Hazard introduced Senator David Cox, who represents the First Senate District. Senator Cox introduced Dana Jorgenson, his field representative.

Senator Cox talked about the following:

- The State recently passed the budget so the Legislature is out of session. They passed a budget as close as possible to being balanced, after a \$7 million reduction. There has been a reduction in residential construction so there could be a shortfall next year.
- There are 172,000 incarcerated adults, which may result in building more prison space.

- Change in health care is an issue and there are six plans under discussion; a significant number of clinics are being opened.
- The Governor has called a special session for health care and water issues.

Stacey Powells, Mammoth Times, asked about HR 356 regarding Mammoth Community Water District wanting to designate land for public use and emergency services. She asked the Senator if he knows anything about this. He said no, this is a federal bill. Supervisor Farnetti said this has been on-going and the agency is trying to get additional land from the Forest Service.

Powells asked Senator Cox if he would be able to help Mono County resolve problems with Verizon's service. Cox said his office is in touch with Verizon about this issue; Supervisor Bauer visited his office recently to talk about this problem. His office will do its best to assist in solving the problem.

Several members of the audience asked for more information about the prison issue, conservation camps for minimum security prisoners, and health care. The Senator said the State is thinking about expanding prisons in order to accommodate more beds. He expressed concern about security and gang populations in prison. He also expressed concern about putting a cap on the number of people in prison, which may necessitate letting some people out; the State needs to figure out a rehabilitation program. Regarding conservation camps, Cox said some institutions are moving in this direction. About health care, Cox said he believes they can make significant improvements, but does not believe there is a plan that will make health care cheaper, which can only be done by denying or postponing services. He said they can improve health care by providing accessibility and moving away from pre-existing conditions, which is preventing access. Cox said he can work to change some rules and regulations for insurance companies. Also, the issue of uninsured people needs to be resolved, and he believes they need to provide subsidies for low-income people.

George Milovich, Agricultural Commissioner, raised the issue about critical habitat for big horn sheep. He said eliminating grazing areas would be detrimental to agriculture in Mono County. He asked how the County (working with the Department of Fish and Game) can better interface with the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Senator Cox said he didn't know, but he would ask Dana to research the answer.

Milovich also asked about AB118, the gas tax that comes back to the agricultural commissioner. He said rural areas don't have the population but they have the land, which provides a buffer from bigger industry. Senator Cox said he has been working on a way to increase the base funding for the frontier counties; so far he has been unsuccessful, but was able to continue the \$500,000 for the rural enforcement.

Someone asked if there was any money allocated in the budget for the 395 corridor. Cox said he met with the regional director of Caltrans and received a list of improvements along 395. Supervisor Reid said there is an extensive list of projects. A concern was raised about truck traffic (common carriers) using Sonora Pass; the road cannot carry the larger trucks and there should be restrictions to truck size. Cox said Dana will contact the appropriate people to get information, and he will consider legislative action; however, if Caltrans isn't willing to put it into law, it might not pass.

Supervisor Farnetti thanked Senator Cox for supporting the Williamson Act and for supporting the \$500,000 rural cops funding.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

- 16) Fiscal Year 2007-2008 County Budget (**Brian Muir**)
RECOMMENDED ACTION: If necessary, approve **Resolution R07-___** adopting the final Mono County budget for fiscal year 2007-2008. (Item #15 above)

The budget was approved earlier in the day.

Regarding the Chalfant community, Chairman Hazard said park playground equipment, EMS support, and an ambulance for Tri-Valley were approved in the budget.

ADJOURNED: 6:50 p.m.

Prior to adjourning, Chairman Hazard announced that a Planning Commission meeting will be held in Chalfant on the 20th regarding the White Mountain Estates project, Phase 2. On October 3rd, there will be another meeting on the community visioning plan; RPAC will be held at the end of the month and they will talk about the approved budget items.

Mono County Board of Supervisors next regular session will be on **October 2, 2007**, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.

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